

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Markem Corporation

New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Markem Corporation Learns Lean

Client Profile:

Markem Corporation is one of the world's leading providers of marking and coding systems designed to meet all the product identification needs of industrial and distribution companies. A broad range of industries turn to Markem for printing their packages and products with diverse images and variable information including date and production codes, product identification, bar codes, logos and graphics and real time codes. Founded in New England in 1911, Markem Corporation now has 1300 employees worldwide. Its facility in Keene, New Hampshire, employs 499 people.

Situation:

Markem Corporation started its venture into a three-year lean manufacturing transformation for its entire business enterprise in the spring of 2002. Every month, groups of employees spend a week transforming work areas into lean manufacturing work cells. Markem was working very hard to make changes during the week while providing lean education at the same time. The company engaged the New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NH MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to give its TimeWise training at the Keene facility.

Solution:

NH MEP's TimeWise training helped maximize the impact of the week of work. Fifty-seven employees participated in the training. The TimeWise training prepared Markem's employees for the tasks and challenges they would face during their week of work, and gave them a better understanding of Markem's lean initiative. NH MEP was also able to coordinate this project with the New Hampshire Governor's Training Grant via New Hampshire Community Technical College at Claremont to save Markem 50 percent of the training costs.

Results:

Trained 57 employees in lean manufacturing practices, specifically Markem's lean initiative.

Received training at half the cost by coordinating with the New Hampshire Governor's Training Grant.

Reduced inventory levels by more than \$1 million since April 2002.

Testimonial:

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